

Committee on Cell Phone Use in Air Travel
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St. SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Sept. 2005

Dear Sirs,

As a U.S. citizen, I wanted to contribute to the debate about allowing cell phone use in airplanes. I feel very strongly that this should be banned.

When you live in a suburban or city area, you are surrounded by noise the moment you leave your home. This cannot be altered. However, with the explosion of cell phones into our world, the noise of meaningless chatter has infiltrated even the most remote of places. In my experience, people use the cell phone much more for social than for business purposes.

When you are on a plane, you finally have some (relative) quiet for the length of the trip. If you have a chatty neighbor, you can either talk or put on headphones or try to sleep. But you do not have to hear anything else. If cell phones are let loose in airplanes, you will hear more of the same garbage you hear in department stores, at ball games, in supermarkets, crossing the street, and at any recreational event.

People often speak loudly on cell phones, for various reasons. If you are in a plane, you cannot get off and wait for another bus, or move to another car in the train. You will be stuck for hours, having to listen to many other conversations. It will affect the quality of air travel in a really negative way.

Many public venues, including libraries, hospitals and museums, ban cell phone use. Other institutions are considering the same thing; as it is a public nuisance. You cannot separate business calls from social calls, and people do not use common sense anymore with cell phone use.

There is also the security component, as terrorists use cell phones to detonate bombs.

Please do not permit cell phone use on airplanes. It will bring no major advantages to travelers, and will alter air travel quality for the worse. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Susan Levin
Teaneck, NJ

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